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CELEBRITY CAMEOS ABOUND IN PUPPET FRANCHISE'S LATEST MOVIE, MUPPETS MOST WANTED PAGE 23

Alta. premier resigns over scandal and infighting

Alison Redford departs, saying she gave her 'heart and soul' to Alberta PAGES 8 & 9

First period unkind to the falling Leafs

Toronto loses 5-3 to Tampa Bay as James Reimer gives up the first shot against him and Paul Ranger needs to be carried off the ice PAGE 37

FBI helping study missing pilot's flight simulator

Files were erased on Feb. 3 from the device owned by Malaysia Airlines pilot PAGE 10

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

How cops cracked open Ford scandal

Finding the video.
Gawker article leads to connection between police investigations

JESSICA SMITH CROSS
jessica.smithcross@metronews.ca

The police officer who found the Rob Ford crack video was unaware of the Project Brazen 2 investigation into the mayor and his associates but thought the video "might be important," new police documents reveal.

The latest release of search warrant documents shed some light on how the crack video was found on Oct. 29, eight months after it was filmed in an Etobicoke basement and four months after the computer it was on was seized in a Project Traveller drugs-and-guns raid.

The computer belonged to Mohamed Siad, and Det. John Menard, supervisor of the technological crime section of the intelligence division, had read an article in Gawker about Siad — who had recently been named in the media as the person who had been trying to sell the crack video — which prompted him to review the Siad evidence.

"Det. Menard began the examination of the laptop computer and found some pictures of a firearm and the videos in relation to Mayor Ford," the documents say. "Although Det. Menard wasn't sure what significance the video would have with Project Traveller, he thought it might be important. Det. Menard conferred with his superior, who advised that an investigation was ongoing that may have some relation to this video."

Menard recovered four other files — three short failed attempts at filming Ford at the same time as the crack video and a video Siad took of himself boasting about how he surreptitiously caught the mayor smoking crack.

Menard discovered that the file names indicate a missing video — IMG_0313.mov — and advised it "may shed further light into what occurred that day."

The police documents describe the crack video: "Ford holds a glass cylinder to his mouth, slowly moves a flame around the bottom of the pipe, inhales and exhales … consuming what appears to be a narcotic."

Two days later, Police Chief Bill Blair announced the existence of the crack video and of Project Brazen 2.

The documents spell out how police are continuing to investigate the mayor and his associates, attempting to solidify the connection between Ford, Lisi and Lisi's alleged acts of extortion through phone records. Police requested and received authorization for telephone records for Ford, his former staffer David Price, former assistant Thomas Beyer, Siad, Lisi and others.

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 3

Mayor Rob Ford leaves city hall on Wednesday with London Times food critic Giles Coren and his film crew and visits a food truck on Queen Street, with a horde of media surrounding him all the way back through Nathan Phillips Square. VINCE TALOTTA/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Unknown

Sections of the ITO that cannot be released include:

- Details of Project Traveller wiretaps related to Lisi's alleged extortive efforts to retrieve the mayor's lost phone in April
- The recently obtained results of a search of Lisi's iPhone
- Several pages connected to an attempt by detectives to interview him — despite the fact that he did not want to co-operate.

Video description

"Ford holds a glass cylinder to his mouth, slowly moves a flame around the bottom of the pipe, inhales and exhales … consuming what appears to be a narcotic."

Police document describing the video

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Profit

Ice storm can't touch hydro's bottom line

December's ice storm cost Toronto Hydro $13.8 million in extra expenses, plus almost $1 million in lost sales, the company says.

Still, the company boosted profit to $121.2 million in 2013, compared with $86 million the year before, it said in a release.

The profit also allowed the company to declare a dividend of $41.9 million, payable on March 31. The dividend was based on a formula that pays out a portion of year-end profit in dividends, if earnings exceed a target.

The money flows to the City of Toronto, which is Toronto Hydro's sole shareholder. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Paxton

City staffer who admitted fraud takes leave

Sheila Paxton, the city hall staffer who testified to participating in a scheme to defraud the federal government of hundreds of thousands of dollars, has taken a leave of absence from her job as Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly's policy director.

Sheila Paxton
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kelly confirmed Paxton was on leave, but would not specify if it was paid.

A city spokesperson confirmed that Paxton is still on the city payroll.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Possible suicide shuts DVP lanes

Police investigate the scene of a possible suicide on the Don Valley Parkway Wednesday. One person is dead after landing on the back of a car going southbound along the DVP, media reports say. The incident happened shortly after 6 a.m. along the DVP's southbound lanes, near Dundas Street. The highway's southbound lanes were closed at Bayview and Bloor until 10:45 a.m. as police investigated. Police are looking into the possibility the victim fell or jumped from the overpass.
COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

See Rob run: Ford stays mum on latest docs

Project Brazen 2.
Mayor dodges media left and right at city hall

Mayor Rob Ford spent Wednesday literally running from reporters' questions — up a flight of stairs, through hallways and across Nathan Phillips Square — as the latest batch of Project Brazen 2 documents became public.

On several occasions, he shoved his way through a crowd of journalists and photographers, ignoring questions about the infamous crack video, his connection to the Dixon City Bloods and his ongoing relationship with accused drug dealer and extortionist Sandro Lisi.

At one point, he left the building to film a segment for a new reality show with British food critic Giles Coren at a hot-dog truck, but returned to his office without addressing any of the new revelations.

Ford did take a call from the Toronto Sun's Joe Warmington in the middle of a meeting shortly after the documents were released.

"I am in executive committee so I don't even know what's out there," he told the columnist. "I am just going to go about my day."

Since the courts began releasing documents connected to Project Brazen 2 a few months ago, and the grainy surveillance images of Ford and Lisi became public, reporters from around the world flew to Toronto to cover the story.

The mayor became a staple on American late-night television. CNN began live-streaming city council meetings and councillors of all political stripes passionately denounced the mayor.

Quoted

"I am just going to go about my day."
Mayor Rob Ford

But on Wednesday, the reaction was muted. Several councillors only sighed when asked to comment on the latest revelations, which include details about the infamous crack footage, and the fact that police have recovered five videos in the case and are searching for a sixth.

Deputy Mayor Norm Kelly called on Ford to address the allegations.

Coun. Adam Vaughan said even if the mayor did comment, nothing he says can be trusted — Ford "continues to lie."

"The only thing that's true about Rob Ford is he's the worst mayor Toronto's ever had," Vaughan said.

Coun. Janet Davis said the whole affair was "sad, sad and more sad."

Asked if he thought the mayor's credibility will take a hit, Coun. Denzil Minnan-Wong said Wednesday's news mostly confirmed what had previously been reported.

"Well quite frankly I think the mayor's credibility has.… I don't know that this moves it any lower than it already has been." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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HUDSON'S BAY

John Tory says he is the best candidate to move Toronto forward

'A new captain.'
Mayoral contender gives his first major campaign speech since entering the race last month

John Tory poses for a photo with his family at his official campaign kickoff event at the Polish Combatants' Hall on Wednesday. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Even after 30 years in politics, John Tory says he's the alternative candidate for Torontonians looking to replace Rob Ford as the city's mayor on Oct. 27.

"Ours is the only campaign, and I am the only candidate that will take Toronto not left, not right, but forward," Tory said Wednesday night in his first major campaign speech since entering the race last month.

Supporters packed the Polish Combatants Hall in downtown Toronto — blocks from where one of his main rivals, Olivia Chow, lives — cheered and chanted "Tory, Tory, Tory," as he worked his way through the crowd that included his wife, Barb, and three of their four children.

"I think he looks like he's really ready," one long-time Tory fan said as he passed by.

Tory, 59, was not there to make any major policy announcements.

Instead, the speech was an opportunity for Tory, with a horde of reporters and cameras present, to try and capture some of Chow's thunder a week ago during her highly publicized launch. Chow is the only major left-wing candidate in the race.

The release of court documents Wednesday that put the mayor's crack scandal back into the headlines gave Tory ammunition to attack his main challenger on the right of the political spectrum.

It played well with the overwhelmingly male crowd. "Rob Ford has disappointed almost everyone with his behaviour, including in particular his almost complete unwillingness or inability to work with others," Tory said before shifting focus to his rival on the left.

"Olivia Chow is hoping the natural outcome from four years of Rob Ford will be a pendulum swing that takes the city back to its free-spending ways and days."

As an experienced businessman — he is a former CEO of Rogers Cable — Tory said he is well positioned to run city government, identify waste and ensure Toronto operates efficiently.

He suggested that consolidating the real estate departments at the TTC, Toronto Community Housing, Build Toronto, the Toronto Parking Authority and the city itself could save significant money.

"Wouldn't it make more sense and save millions of dollars to take the best people from each area and have them working towards one plan?"

And Tory suggested reducing the amount of office space allocated to city workers, which costs much more than what other organizations pay, could save millions of dollars.

"My friends, it's not just about waste. It's about lost opportunity," he said.

"Every dollar going to waste in the city budget is a dollar that cannot be used to build transit or help those struggling in our marginalized neighbourhoods."

He reiterated his campaign slogan that he wants to make Toronto more "livable, affordable and functional," as well as his plan to stick with council's already approved subway in Scarborough.

That will be paired with a jobs and growth plan "that takes full advantage of that sparkling new subway line and offers new hope and opportunity in that important part of Toronto." Details of that plan will be spelled out in the months ahead, he said.

Chow and mayoralty candidate David Soknacki would cancel the three-stop Scarborough subway in favour of the cheaper seven-stop LRT originally planned. Coun. Karen Stintz, who is also running for mayor, and Tory say they will build the funded subway.

Tory also said he backs the downtown relief subway line, estimated to cost more than $7 billion.

Tory said the Scarborough subway is one of the "clear differences" between his candidacy and that of Chow's.

He referred to her "long record of polarization" and said his approach "will get things done."

"What our great city needs, like any vessel in rough waters, is not a hard turn of the rudder to the left or right, but a course correction, brought about by a new captain."

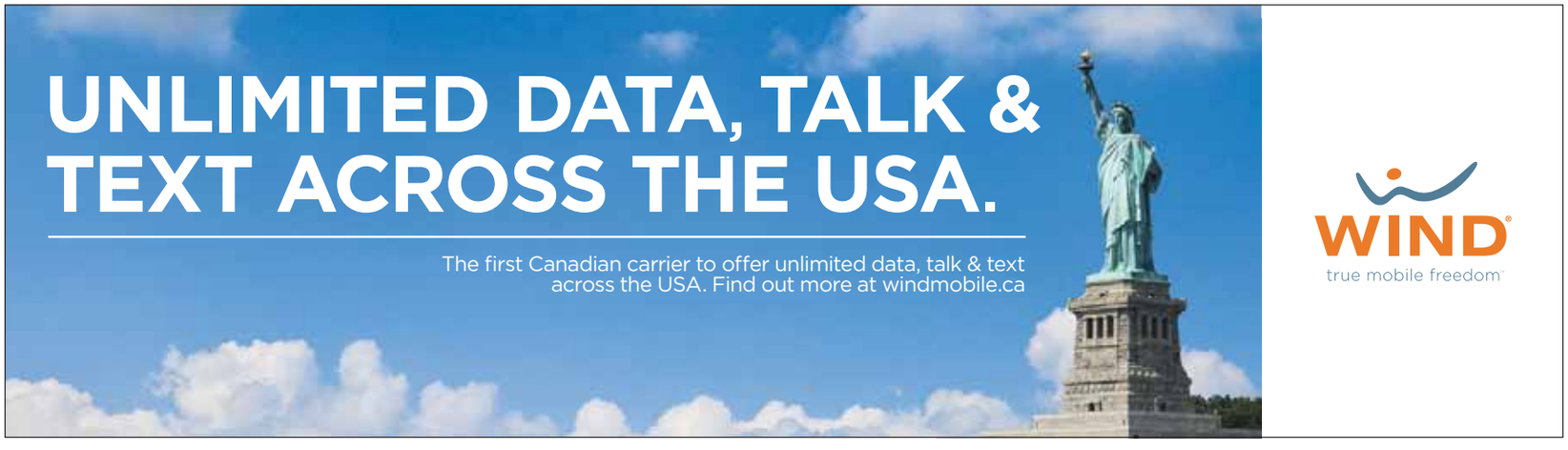
Tory also acknowledged his less-than-stellar track record at the ballot box. He was leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservatives when they went down to a humiliating loss in 2007.

"I've experienced defeat. I've been knocked down and gotten back up. I'm not perfect but, unlike some others, I will never be content with that fact," he said in an obvious reference to Ford.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Land ahoy!

"What our great city needs, like any vessel in rough waters, is not a hard turn of the rudder to the left or right, but a course correction, brought about by a new captain." John Tory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Airport to go out with Flaherty?

Pickering proposal. Foes of project hope finance minister's exit stalls plans

Opponents of the proposed Pickering airport hope that Jim Flaherty's departure from federal cabinet will mean plans are stalled, and eventually shelved.

"It is an unneeded, unnecessary airport," said Mary Delaney, chair of Land Over Landings, a citizens' group fighting the plan. "If there was a business case, there would be an airport there now."

Last June, Flaherty, who represents the neighbouring riding of Whitby-Oshawa, surprised everyone including other politicians when he suddenly announced that airport plans on the Pickering lands were being revived.

Flaherty announced that he was stepping down as federal finance minister Tuesday.

Delaney said her group wants to see the prime agricultural lands preserved instead of building an airport, given that Pearson airport is not at capacity and Hamilton's airport is underused.

"Hopefully, a new finance minister will listen to us," she said. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"We always wondered whether it was a legacy project."
Mary Delaney, chair of Land Over Landings

An SOS for more RNs

Linda Haslam-Stroud, president of the Ontario Nurses' Association, speaks to members of the ONA and nursing students at a rally at Queen's Park on Wednesday. The ONA is calling on the provincial government to hire 17,500 more registered nurses. Ontario has the second-lowest RN-to-population ratio with just seven RNs per 1,000 Ontarians. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Head librarian turns the page in her career

Toronto's Chief Librarian Jane Pyper, seen here Wednesday in the Reference Library at Yonge and Bloor, has stepped down from her post in one of the world's busiest urban public library systems. "I have enjoyed my time at the library immensely and look forward to contributing to the life of this city in other ways," Pyper said in a press release. Pyper assumed the role of city librarian in 2008. COLIN MCCONNELL/TORONTO STAR

GO. 6 women report groping on Milton line

Six women have gone to the Toronto police to report they were sexually assaulted by a man they sat next to on the buses or trains in the Milton corridor of GO Transit, feigned sleep and then groped them.

Det. Wayne Fowler said a suspect, Mustafa Ibrahim, 29, of Mississauga, has been charged with two counts of sexual assault and he expects more charges will be laid.

After police announced on March 6 that Ibrahim had been arrested in connection with the assault of a 22-year-old woman, other women came forward to say they'd been assaulted in the same manner. The assaults date back to December, said Fowler.

"I believe very strongly there are more victims," he said. "I'd like to hear from anybody who has had a similar incident happen to them."

In all cases, the suspect would sit beside the victim, bypassing other empty seats. Each of the assaults involves the suspect "feigning sleep, at which time he moves his hand upon the women's leg and thigh area," said Fowler. JESSICA SMITH CROSS/METRO

May lose his leg

SPCA probes shooting of cat

Animal cruelty officials are investigating after they say a cat was shot 16 times with a pellet gun in Oshawa.

The Durham Humane Society says the male cat — who has since been named Matty — was found with a badly broken leg on Friday. The humane society says Matty is currently stable and will soon undergo surgery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Victim from Mississauga

More arrests in man's 2011 death

Two more arrests have been made in connection with the shooting death of Keith Brissett Jr., 32, in 2011.

Sheldon Ranglin, 25, and Terrain Radcliffe Green, 29, both of Brampton, are charged with first-degree murder. Two other men were charged with first-degree murder in October 2012 and are currently before the courts. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Joe Oliver was sworn in as finance minister Wednesday in Ottawa. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oliver says he'll 'continue the government's agenda'

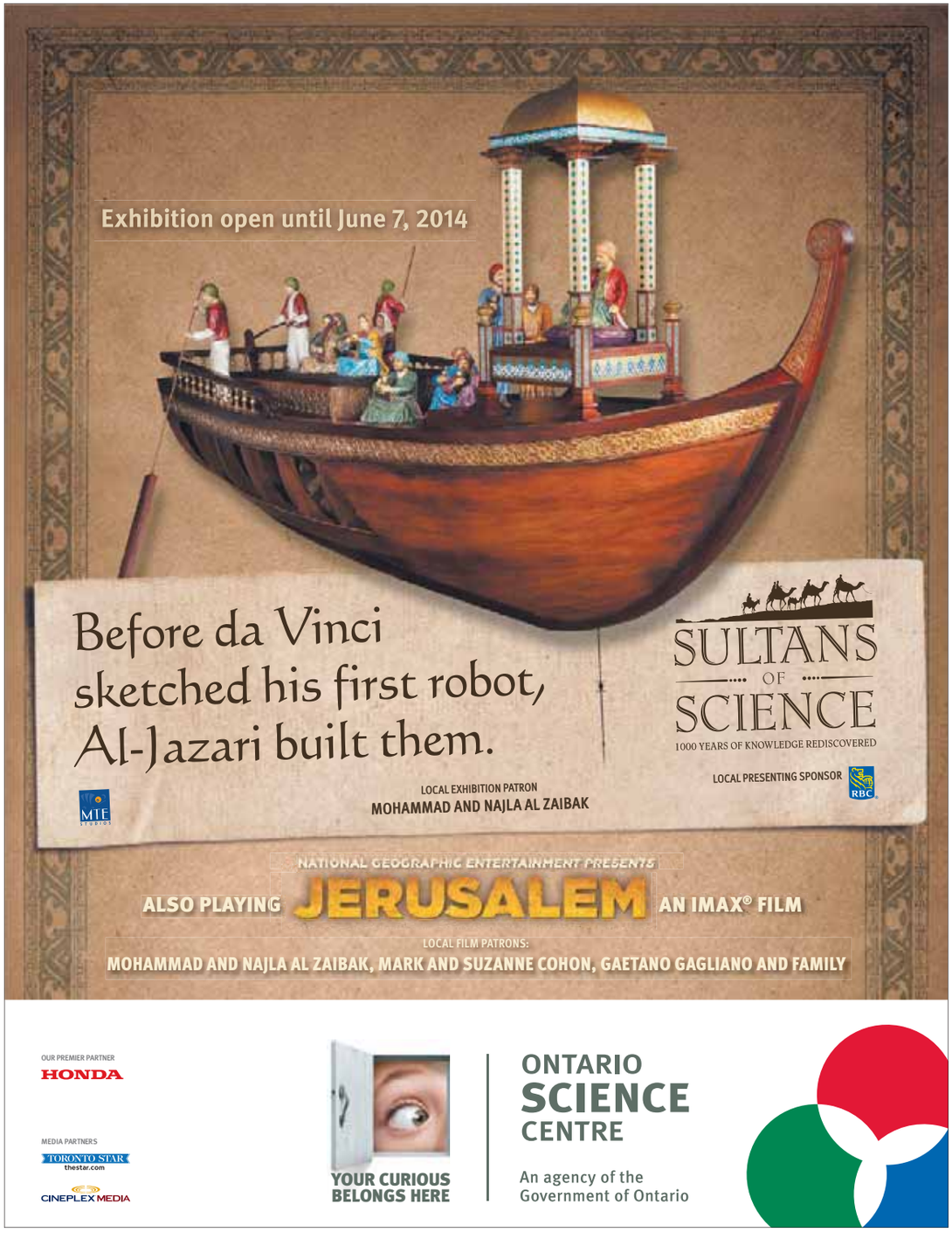
For a time, the Conservative government used something called "event in a box" to help guide MPs on public announcements, a ready-made communications kit that could be rolled out with no fuss, no muss.

As Joe Oliver stepped into the Finance portfolio Wednesday, replacing Jim Flaherty, some wondered whether he would be given any latitude, or simply be rolling out a pre-election package.

"My overarching priority is to continue the government's agenda of creating jobs and growth right across the country," Oliver said in an interview.

Oliver will preside over just one federal budget before the fall 2015 election, one that is guaranteed to feature a surplus for the first time since 2007.

Whatever moves Oliver makes will be done at least partly in the context of electoral strategy and the shape of the next Conservative platform, elements highly controlled by the prime minister and party headquarters. THE CANADIAN PRESS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Alberta Premier Alison Redford announces her resignation in Edmonton on Wednesday. over her leadership style and questionable expenses. JASON FRANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Alberta's stepping

Effective Sunday. Weeks of turmoil over lavish spending culminate in Alison Redford announcing her resignation

Alberta Premier Alison Redford is resigning.

Redford has been struggling to deal with unrest in her Progressive Conservative caucus over her leadership style and questionable expenses. She says her resignation will be effective Sunday.

"Quite simply, I am not prepared to allow party and caucus infighting to get in the way," she told supporters gathered in the legislature rotunda for the announcement. "I've given my heart and soul to this province, every minute for the last two and a half years."

Redford could not weather weeks of revelations of lavish spending. It began when it surfaced that she had spent $45,000 on first-class air tickets and a government plane to go to Nelson Mandela's funeral in South Africa.

Other revelations fell like hammer blows: Redford using government planes for a vacation; to fly her daughter and her daughter's friends around; to go to a family funeral in Vancouver.

There were calls for Redford to repay the money for the South Africa trip. She only did so after caucus tensions spilled into the public realm.

Last week, things went from bad to worse when Redford's character came into question.

Calgary backbencher Len Webber quit the Tory caucus, saying he could no longer stomach Redford's temper tantrums and abuse of subordinates. She wasn't a "nice lady," he said.

On the weekend, Redford was taken to task by Progressive

Redford has been struggling to deal with unrest in her Progressive Conservative caucus

premier down

Conservative party executive in a closed-door meeting. They emerged to say Redford would be given an unspecified "work plan" to follow.

The turmoil continued.

On Sunday, 10 government members met to debate whether to leave caucus and sit as Independents.

On Monday, Donna Kennedy-Glans, the associate minister for electricity, quit saying the promised reforms by Redford were dying on the vine.

Earlier Wednesday, it was reported that riding association presidents in Calgary would meet in the evening to call for her resignation.

Redford was named party leader in the fall of 2011 and won government in her own right on a platform of progressivism.

Redford promised to eradicate poverty, boost social spending, and invest in education.

A coalition of unions and progressives helped her party to victory in the 2012 provincial election over the more right of centre Wildrose. But once elected, Redford moved her party to the right.

She cut spending in the budgets to below the levels of inflation plus population, strong-armed teachers and doctors into taking wage freezes.

When the Alberta Union of Provincial Employees refused to accept a wage freeze, she passed a law forcing it on them.

Despite the move, she angered fiscal conservatives, taking Alberta back into long-term debt expected to reach $21 billion by 2017 to pay for new schools and health clinics.

Within moments of Redford's announcement on Wednesday, Twitter exploded as pundits, politicians and the public weighed in on her departure.

One supporter named Duncan Wojtaszek tweeted his thanks to Redford for her public service: "I wish you happy trails and joy."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Oprah Chai. Starbucks joins forces with Winfrey to announce charity tea

Starbucks' annual meeting seemed like an episode of The Oprah Winfrey Show on Wednesday, when the celebrity talk-show host appeared on stage to announce the chai tea drink she created.

The Seattle-based coffee company says the Oprah Chai will be available starting April 29 at its cafés and the chain of Teavana stores it recently bought.

Proceeds from the sales of the Oprah Chai will go toward charities that help youth education.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google privacy

Lawsuit loses class-action status

A judge has tossed out an effort to win class-action status for a lawsuit accusing Google of violating the privacy terms of email users.

Judge Lucy Koh ruled Tuesday that too many users have too many dissimilar claims to pursue a single class-action lawsuit.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Murder ink

Cops called over guy's gut gat tat

Police armed with assault rifles descended on a man's home after a tree-removal crew he'd told to leave his property reported he had a gun. Turns out the "gun" the crew saw on Michael Smith was just a life-sized tattoo of a handgun on his stomach. Smith was not charged. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Flight 370: FBI helps study data deleted from pilot's flight simulator

Malaysian authorities. They say it seems the flight was deliberately turned back with its communications systems disabled

A woman reads messages for passengers aboard a missing Malaysia Airlines plane, at Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang, Malaysia.
LAI SENG SIN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The FBI is aiding Malaysian authorities investigate deleted data on a flight simulator belonging to the pilot of the missing Malaysia Airlines plane, while distraught relatives of the passengers unleashed their anger Wednesday, wailing in frustration at 12 days of uncertainty.

The anguish of relatives of the 239 people on Flight 370 boiled over at a briefing near Kuala Lumpur's airport. Two Chinese women who shouted at Malaysian authorities and unfurled a banner accusing officials of "hiding the truth" were removed from the room. In a heart-wrenching scene, one woman screamed in sorrow as she was dragged away.

"I want you to help me to find my son! I want to see my son!" one of the two unidentified women said. "We have been here for 10 days."

Files containing records of flight simulations were deleted Feb. 3 from the device found in the home of the Malaysia Airlines pilot, Capt. Zaharie Ahmad Shah, Malaysian police chief Khalid Abu said.

It was not immediately clear whether investigators thought that deleting the files was unusual. The files might hold signs of unusual flight paths that could help explain where the missing plane went.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Possible sighting?

Early Thursday, Australia's prime minister said objects possibly related to the missing flight had been spotted on satellite imagery. Resources had been diverted to the area to attempt to locate the objects.

Pistorius. Girlfriend was standing in toilet cubicle as first shot hit hip, court hears

Oscar Pistorius' girlfriend was standing in a toilet cubicle and facing the closed door when she was hit in the right hip by the first of four bullets that he fired, a police ballistics expert testified Wednesday at the double-amputee runner's murder trial.

Reeva Steenkamp fell back onto a magazine holder in the cubicle and crossed her arms over her head to protect herself, said Capt. Christiaan Mangena. The second bullet missed Steenkamp and ricocheted off the wall and broke into fragments, bruising her back, he said. Steenkamp was then hit in her right arm and in the head by the third and fourth shots fired by Pistorius with his 9 mm pistol, he said. She collapsed with her head on the toilet seat, Mangena said.

Pistorius, 27, is charged with premeditated murder in Steenkamp's shooting death on Feb. 14 last year and faces 25 years to life in prison if convicted. He says he shot Steenkamp, 29, by mistake through a locked door in his bathroom because he thought she was a dangerous nighttime intruder.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Empty mansion

Teenagers charged with breaking and partying

Authorities have filed criminal charges against 14 teenagers who allegedly broke into a Southern California mansion and held a party that caused more than $1 million in damage and losses, including the theft of a stuffed snow leopard. Authorities say the party promoted on social media in November brought more than 100 teens to the La Habra Heights mansion while the owner was away. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Ferocious feline to be an Animal Planet star

'My Cat from Hell'. Expert to feature 'Lux', the cat from Oregon who attacked a family after a child pulled its tail

The large cat that attacked a baby and trapped an Oregon family in a bedroom touched off an Internet uproar that worries Jackson Galaxy, star of Animal Planet's My Cat from Hell.

Cats don't become ferocious felines that turn on their families for no reason, says the cat behaviour expert, who is heading to Portland soon to work with the four-year-old part Himalayan pet named Lux. Galaxy will film the visit for his show's fifth season, which kicks off April 26.

Lux, the cat who was the subject of a 911 call. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Every parental site on the Internet blames the cat for this confrontation. Every pet site blames the family," he said, adding that something is wrong if the cat is acting out. "We need to step away from the hysteria. There is a story behind all this. Don't assume anything."

Lux became a worldwide phenomenon after owner Lee Palmer called 911 and said the cat had cornered him, his girlfriend, their baby and the family dog. Palmer says his seven-month-old pulled Lux's tail, and he kicked the animal after it scratched the child. Then, the cat "just went off over the edge," Palmer told 911. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Newfoundland house buried by tough winter

Janice Gould and Rick Cooper's house in Port au Choix, N.L., is almost completely buried under snow on Wednesday. The couple were away most of the winter, but started to get calls from neighbours earlier this month telling them their house was in trouble. Gould said they rushed home to discover it was completely covered, with only its roof poking out of the snow. COURTESY JANICE GOULD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Senegal failing its child beggars

Human Rights Watch. Tens of thousands of boys still 'subjected to the practice of forced begging', human rights group says

A boy begs for change from morning commuters boarding public transport buses in a suburb of Dakar, Senegal. REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Senegal's government has failed to make good on promises to close dangerous and unsanitary boarding schools that house child beggars more than a year after a fire at one such shack killed eight young boys, an international human rights group said Wednesday.

Human Rights Watch also called on the government to move quickly to implement proposed legislation that could regulate conditions at such schools known as daaras. Tens of thousands of young boys in the West African country are supposed to be learning the Qur'an at the residential schools but instead spend up to eight hours a day begging in traffic, only to sleep in deplorable conditions at night.

The government has tried for years to ban the practice, but it remains deeply embedded in Senegal where many poor parents view it as the only way to provide an education.

An untold number of young boys have been run down and killed while begging in traffic but the March 2013 fire tragedy in Dakar's Medina neighbourhood appeared to be a game changer, when President Macky Sall declared that all substandard daaras would be closed. The report by Human Rights Watch found that Sall's promise remains largely unrealized. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neurodevelopment of Children Exposed in-Utero to Chemotherapy for Maternal Breast Cancer (PI - Dr. I Nulman)

The Motherisk Program at **The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids)** in Toronto is recruiting volunteers for a study on the physical health and neurodevelopmental outcomes of children exposed to maternal chemotherapy and/or surgery for breast cancer during pregnancy. The findings of this research will help optimize breast cancer treatment during pregnancy, while minimizing the risks for the fetus.

Who is eligible to participate?
- Children up to 16 years of age who were exposed to maternal chemotherapy and/or surgery for breast cancer during pregnancy.
- The child's parents or primary care providers

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- Children will undergo a non-invasive physical examination and neuropsychological testing (IQ testing).
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Kosovo and Crimea

Putin's justification

Vladimir Putin's key argument justifying Crimea's secession from Ukraine and annexation by Russia is the West's acceptance of Kosovo's declaration of statehood in 2008. Kosovo and Crimea both sought independence against the wishes of their central governments but the two situations have many differences. With the strong support of the United States, the ethnic Albanian-dominated Kosovo seceded from Serbia over Serbia's strong objections. Russia, a historic Slavic ally of the Serbs, at the time argued that the Kosovo declaration was a serious breach of international law that could lead to a series of statehood claims elsewhere in the world. Enter Crimea, Ukraine's strategic Black Sea peninsula. After Crimean residents voted overwhelmingly Sunday to secede and join Russia, Putin is invoking the precedent of Kosovo to justify the vote while the West insists the ballot is invalid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Russian President Vladimir Putin
RIA-NOVOSTI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Armed Crimean self-defence forces stand outside the Training Centre of the Naval Forces of Ukraine while taking over its control in Sevastopol, Crimea, on Wednesday. ANDREW LUBIMOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine bows to Russia's annexation

Following the referendum. Putin signed a treaty on Tuesday to incorporate Crimea into Russia

Surrendering to Russia's inexorable seizure of Crimea, Ukraine announced plans Wednesday for mass troop withdrawals from the strategic peninsula as Moscow-loyal forces seized control of Kyiv's naval headquarters here and detained its commander.

Attempting to face down the unblinking incursion, Ukraine said it would hold joint military exercises with the United States and Britain.

Hours after masked Russian-speaking troops forced their way onto Ukraine's main naval base here, forlorn Ukrainian soldiers streamed out carrying clothing and other belongings in bags. A group of local militia and Cossacks, later joined by officers from Russia's Black Sea Fleet, looked on.

Just how many retreating troops Ukraine will have to absorb in what amounts to a military surrender of Crimea was unclear. Many servicemen have already switched sides to Russia, but authorities said they were prepared to relocate as many as 25,000 soldiers and their families to the Ukrainian mainland.

Humbled but defiant, Ukraine lashed out symbolically at Russia by declaring its intent to leave the Moscow-dominated Commonwealth of Independent States, a loose alliance of 11 former Soviet nations. The last nation to leave the group was Georgia, which lost a brief war with neighbouring Russia in 2008 and ended up losing two separatist territories.

Vice-President Joe Biden, in Lithuania trying to reassure nations bordering Russia alarmed by the sight of an expansion-minded neighbour, said the U.S. would stand by them.

"We're in this with you, together," Biden said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Trapped

Thousands of Ukrainian soldiers and sailors are trapped on military bases, surrounded by heavily armed Russian forces.

- The Kyiv government said it was drawing up plans to evacuate its troops.

Convictions for aiding suicide overturned

William Melchert-Dinkel. Ex-nurse had been convicted of encouraging Brampton student to jump into Ottawa river in 2008

The Minnesota Supreme Court on Wednesday reversed the convictions of a former nurse accused of encouraging two people whom he met online to kill themselves.

The court ruled that the language in the state's assisted-suicide law that pertains to "encouraging" suicide is unconstitutional.

William Melchert-Dinkel's 360-day jail sentence had been on hold pending the outcome of his appeal.

Melchert-Dinkel, 51, was convicted on two counts of aiding suicide in the deaths of two people: Nadia Kajouji, 18, of Brampton, Ont., who jumped into a frozen Ottawa river in 2008; and Mark Drybrough, 32, of England, who hanged himself in 2005. Kajouji was a student at Carleton University in Ottawa.

Prosecutors say Melchert-Dinkel played an integral role in their deaths, including giving step-by-step instructions.

Evidence showed that Melchert-Dinkel posed as a suicidal female nurse, feigned compassion and offered instructions on how they could kill themselves. According to court documents, he entered into fake suicide pacts with about 10 people, five of whom he believed killed themselves. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

William Melchert-Dinkel leaves the courthouse in Faribault, Minn. with his attorney, right, and wife in this Feb. 2011 photo. ROBB LONG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obese baby put on diet

Eight-month-old Santiago Mendoza sits at a clinic in Bogota, Colombia, Tuesday. The baby weighs more than 20 kilograms and will be on a diet to lose weight, said therapist Salvador Palacios of a nonprofit organization that cares for obese children.

FERNANDO VERGARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Toyota hit with record $1.2B penalty in U.S.

Largest of its kind. While feds settled with Japanese automaker over safety issues that became public in 2009, a criminal charge was filed

The U.S. government announced a $1.2 billion US settlement with Toyota Motor Corp. on Wednesday and filed a criminal charge alleging the company defrauded consumers by issuing misleading statements about safety issues in Toyota and Lexus vehicles. The penalty is the largest of its kind ever imposed on an auto company, the Justice Department said.

The action concludes a years-long criminal investigation into the Japanese automaker's disclosure of safety problems, which focused on whether Toyota was forthright in reporting problems of unintended acceleration troubles.

The company admitted to misleading consumers and regulators in providing assurances that it had addressed the problems — which became public in 2009 following a car crash in San Diego that killed a family of four — through a limited safety recall of certain models. Toyota knew at the time that other models susceptible to the same acceleration problem had not been recalled and also took steps to conceal a separate acceleration problem related to a faulty pedal, according to the Justice Department. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Toyota Camry is shown after it crashed as it exited Interstate 80 in Utah in 2010. Police suspect problems with the Camry's accelerator or floor mat caused the crash that left two people dead and two others injured. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Port Metro Vancouver

Back-to-work legislation being prepped in B.C.

The government and Port Metro Vancouver aren't waiting to hammer out a deal with striking truckers and their union.

B.C.'s government is prepping back-to-work legislation to get 250 Unifor truckers to resume moving containers at the port, which has a massive backlog due to a three-week long strike. METRO IN VANCOUVER

Market Minute

DOLLAR 88.93¢ (-0.86¢)

TSX 14,334.04 (-34.94)

OIL $100.37 US (+$0.67)

GOLD $1,341.30 US (-$17.70)

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Remote controls obsolete? Chromecast lets users flip the channel via devices

Canadian Netflix and YouTube users looking for a cheap and easy way to stream content on their big screen TVs will finally be able to buy Google's Chromecast device starting on Wednesday.

Originally launched in the U.S. last July, the small $39 gadget plugs into a TV's HDMI port and is powered either through a TV's USB connection or by plugging into an electrical outlet.

The Chromecast doesn't come with a remote. Instead, users control streaming content on their TV with phone or tablet apps or via the Google Chrome web browser on a computer.

"I think what's really resonated with consumers is using their personal devices as a controller," said Chromecast product manager Raunaq Shah during a media preview on Tuesday. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SOCIAL MEDIA ETIQUETTE FOR DUMMIES

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

I get in Facebook fights often.

I try to be civil, but then someone will post about Phil Kessel or Joffrey Baratheon or the Judeo-Christian God and suddenly I need to let the world know why their take on the individual in question is hopelessly wrong.

Digital progress has allowed me an emotional throwback. Social media is where I can revive the rip-roaring bull sessions that used to happen at house parties in my 20s when the smell of pot was in the air, half the guests were face down in the nacho dip, and those still conscious would talk about Big Questions. Why are we on Earth? Who shot JFK? Who's better — Kirk or Picard? Did Kirk and/or Picard shoot JFK? There was a lot of drinking.

Now I can have the same sort of debates without staying up late or buying my own alcohol. (I bought my own at least twice).

Arguing without angering friends or followers can be tricky, of course, so there are rules I follow for using social media with tact. Some involve arguing, while others are just about comporting myself well online.

As with all social-media arguments, I believe my advice is Absolute Truth and anyone who disagrees is an idiot worthy of scorn. It's just the way things are done online.

John's Guide to Online Civility

Part I: Fighting Tips

- As in real life, the soundest way to deal with a fight on Facebook is to sigh heavily, clap slowly and say, "Oh, good point."
- Follow up all death threats with a smiley face to show you're probably joking.
- Whoever posts the last comment in an angry argument thread wins.
- You can avoid direct confrontation with passive aggression. For example, say a friend's status says, "I like peanut butter," you might write "You're an idiot" and you'd lose a friend. But if you write, "Anybody who likes peanut butter is an idiot" you have plausible deniability.

Part II: General Rules

- Remember that writing an offensive or ignorant tweet is one of the quickest ways for aspiring writers to get published in the Huffington Post.
- Employers commonly look at prospective workers' social media. If you must post photos of yourself heavily drinking, try to drink products from companies you might like to work for some day.
- To avoid annoying friends, try to reach a one-to-one ratio in statuses between petty whining and obnoxious bragging.
- If you must announce a death before notifying next of kin, be sure to tag it SPOILERS.

The rules in Part II might actually help you avoid arguments, if you're into that sort of thing. But regardless of whether you prefer to duke it out or play it cool, remember: Facebook and Twitter are public forums. If you must rant and don't want anyone to know, try Google Plus.

Last word!

ZOOM

Fancy a round trip to N.Y.C.?

RANDY SCOTT SLAVIN/REX FEATURES

Photograph turns city topsy-turvy

This mind-bending image of North Cove Marina in New York City will have you in a spin. The surreal landscape was created by photographer Randy Scott Slavin, who used a clever photographic technique to contort the panorama to jaw-dropping effect. METRO

Q & A

Inspiration and challenges

What's your inspiration?
My work has evolved from a love of landscape photography and dis-orientating artwork of M.C. Escher. A friend introduced me to Escher's images in elementary school and it left an indelible mark on my taste ever since.

How is the photography challenging for you?
You have to wait for the right light and in the process deal with everything that mother nature has to offer.

Snap happy

100

individual photographs were used to create the 360-degree composite image. Using picture-editing software, Slavin stitched the photos together to produce a stereographic projection (the mapping of a spherical image onto a flat plane).

Clickbait

LUKE SIMCOE
Metro Online

SCREEN GRAB

After reaching peak Flappy Bird last month, the teeming masses of the Internet have been on the lookout for the next game capable of making frustration fun. Fortunately, a 19-year-old developer has stepped up to the plate with 2048, a few lines of open-source code that resembles a math nerd's version of Candy Crush. The original game can be found at gabrielecirulli.github.io/2048, but there are also a host of goofy remixes that are more fun — or at least more weird — to play.

Doge 2048:
So 2048. Much difficulty. Wow. (doge2048.com)

Doctor Who 2048:
This game replaces the numbers of the original 2048 with various portraits of the actors who have portrayed the Time Lord. If you can build up to Matt Smith, you win! (games.usvsth3m.com/2048-doctor-who-edition)

4:
If you find 2048 too hard, try 4. If you can't win in two moves, you might want to check with your doctor. (ehzhang.github.io/4/)

2048 3D:
2048 in three dimensions. I can't even. (joppi.github.io/2048-3D/)

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A smartwatch that uses Google Now was announced. What would you want your smartwatch to be able to do?

@Canucklehead_ca: Come up with funny responses to questions immediately. (See also: delay last call.)

@TrevorMarr: ToDo list w/ GPS proximity reminder so I don't go past store/shop w/out picking up item I needed. #IWasJustThere

@redsultan: Do basic chores while I'm asleep. Project a 3D holographic image if me to replace me at exams, awkward meetings.

@mtlkeith: Tell me I am eligible for retirement!

@EvanDentremont: I have a smart watch. It already does everything. Incoming calls, emails, texts, blackjack (seriously)

@mitch_waugh: why the need for a "smart watch", when we all carry around our smart phones anyways.

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Get your masters in film

Documentary Organization of Canada. Famed filmmaker Steve James to offer words of wisdom to budding doc makers

BACKSTAGE PASS
Ian Gormely
scene@metronews.ca

There are plenty of great educational opportunities in Toronto, but it's rare that you get a chance to learn from a true master of their craft.

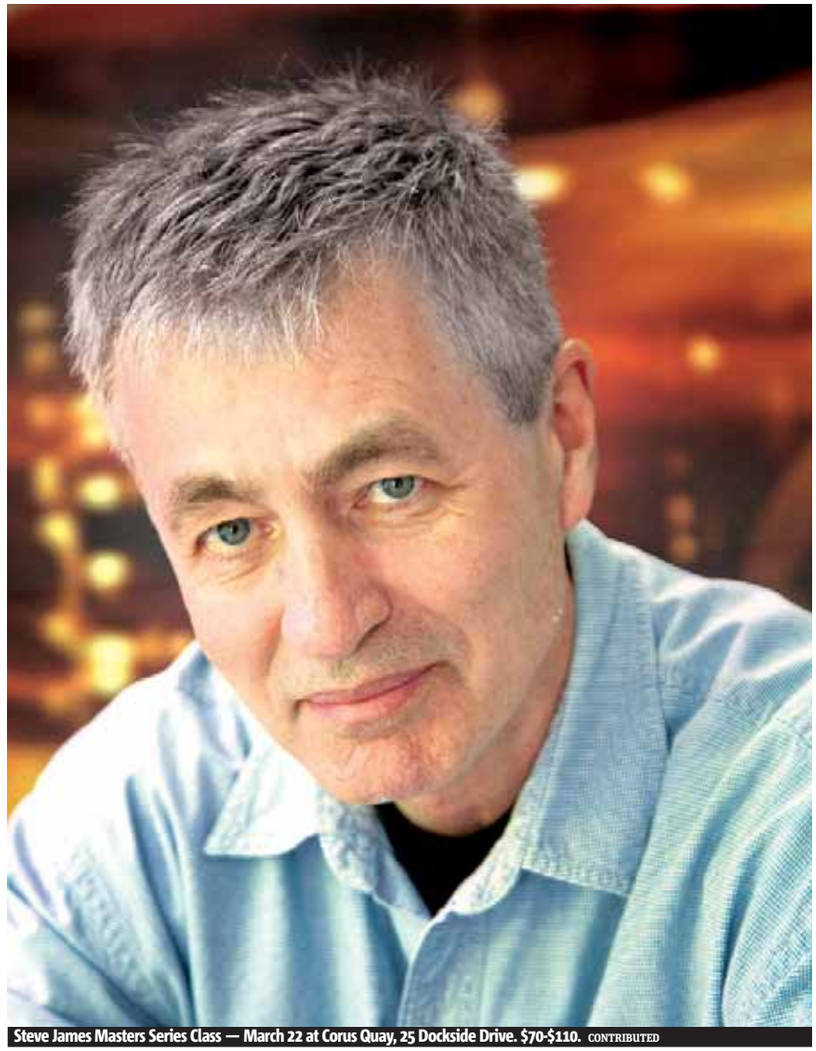
Yet documentary film enthusiasts can do just that Saturday when the Documentary Organization of Canada's DOC Institute launches its 2014 Masters Series with a class led by famed documentary filmmaker Steve James.

The event, an extended lecture with a Q&A, will be followed Sunday with a Masters Lab, where a small group of filmmakers will screen their own work. "We talk about those projects as a group," says James.

"Whatever words of wisdom I have, I'll offer."

James has directed numerous films and television projects over his 30-year career, but remains best known for 1994's Hoop Dreams, which followed a pair of Chicago high school students for five years as they pursued their dream of playing in the NBA.

His latest project, Life Itself, a biopic of famed film critic Roger Ebert, is currently making the rounds at film festivals.



Steve James Masters Series Class — March 22 at Corus Quay, 25 Dockside Drive. $70-$110. CONTRIBUTED

The Chicago-based filmmaker says he relishes these kind of educational pit-stops because he gets as much out of the process as his students.

"There are a lot of really creative people (making docs) who years ago might have been steered towards narrative film."

Thirty years ago, making a living shooting purely documentary films was nearly impossible.

"Documentaries had the perception of being good medicine," says James.

"They'd not broken through in a public way."

Over the last two decades the medium has adopted what he calls the aesthetics of narrative cinema: a liberal use of score, story telling and the use of editing techniques that heighten drama.

"People are trying different things. Narrative cinema went through that many years ago," he says.

"We are in a time still where the form is wide open."

Best in doc

The documentary films that inspired Steve James.

- **Harlan County, USA & American Dream, directed by Barbara Kopple.** "I thought they were extraordinary for their access and complexity and gripping story telling."
- **The Up Series – directed by Michael Apted.** "It sort of inspired me with Hoop Dreams ... it has the same kind of feeling of watching people grow up in front of the camera."
- **Salesman & Grey Gardens – directed by Albert and David Maysles.** "I was really taken with their films."
- **National Film Board of Canada short films.** "There was a liberating aspect to those films that pushed me away from purely narrative film."

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Since 1979 the Muppeteers' magic has kept Kermit and co. on top

Above and beyond. Before technology made it easier on the puppeteers those from Jim Henson to Frank Oz went to great lengths to bring the characters alive

IN FOCUS
Richard Crouse
scene@metronews.ca

When The Muppet Movie was released in 1979 the Muppet Show Fan Club pointed out the differences between the movie and the puppet's popular television show.

"If you think it's a film version of The Muppet Show, you're in for a surprise. For one thing, it doesn't take place in the theatre. The Muppet Movie is set in the real world — it's like waiting in line at a gas station and looking up to find Fozzie and Kermit driving the next car over." In the subsequent seven theatrical Muppet movies that magic has been maintained, but the methods have changed over the years. In 2011's The Muppet Movie all the puppets were real, but the way they were filmed changed. To give the puppets a full range of movement the puppeteers — or Muppeteers as they prefer to be called — were often in full view of the camera and digitally removed in post production.

"We removed the puppeteers later," said visual effects artist Max Ivins, "so it gave the puppeteers a lot more freedom in that they didn't have to hide from the camera to do everything." It's a technique used in Muppets Most Wanted, which sees the furry and felt puppets get into trouble on a world tour when it turns out that Kermit's doppelgänger is the world's number one criminal. Co-starring with the Muppets is Ricky Gervais, Ty Burrell and Tina Fey. In the years before computer generated imagery, however, Muppeteers hidden from view manipulated all the puppets. And it wasn't always so comfortable.

Ricky Gervais, left, with the muppets in a scene from Muppets Most Wanted. AP PHOTO/DISNEY ENTERPRISES

Everyone remembers Kermit sitting on a log, playing his banjo, in the middle of a swamp in The Muppet Movie, but did you know that Jim Henson, Kermit's creator and operator until 1990, was under water for the five days it took to shoot the scene?

According to the Muppet Fan Club he was wedged into a metal tube "under the water, under the log, under the Frog" while hooked up with an air hose, a monitor and a rubber sleeve which allowed him to manipulate the puppet.

Frank Oz was also submerged for Miss Piggy's water ballet scene in The Great Muppet Caper. "I was under the water for a week," he says. "I had three days of scuba training and then down I went." Finally, almost every Muppet movie features Kermit riding a bicycle. How did they do it in the early days? Director James Frawley jokes, "I put him on a three-wheeler until he got his balance, and then I put him on the two-wheeler."

In fact, the effect was achieved by intercutting long shots using a Kermit marionette and close-ups with a hand puppet operated by Henson who rode along with the bike on a low-rolling dolly.

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A swine time was had

Metro's Richard Crouse gets comfortable beside the world's most famous pig. GEORGE PIMENTEL

Miss Piggy handles press with porcine perfection

I have a secret to tell you that I think Miss Piggy would rather remain undisclosed.

The blonde bombshell, that porcine paradigm of perfection, was in Toronto on Tuesday to do some press for her new film Muppets Most Wanted, and sit in for a press conference hosted by moi.

Like everyone else I had heard the stories. The word diva comes up frequently when Miss Piggy is discussed. She has a No Competing Diva clause in her contracts and has even written a book titled The Diva Code.

In the film she does a duet with Celine Dion, and when asked who was the biggest prima donna on set she snapped back, "Well, naturally moi." I'm here to tell you it's not true.

She was on time, primped and ready to go and had very funny answers to all the questions. She admits to enjoying "making a statement wherever she goes," and Tuesday's presser was no exception. When I asked her if she got star struck around co-stars Tina Fey and Ricky Gervais, she said it's others who get star struck by her, before adding, "others are struck by a star if they get between moi and the camera."

The only hint of diva-ish behaviour came when she was asked who could portray her in a biopic. "Moi, of course," she said, but later when asked if she knew she was a gay icon she replied, in a most un-diva-like way, "I'm an icon to anyone who will have moi!" RICHARD CROUSE

The Muppets deliver a cameo avalanche, as always

A celeb for all tastes. Famous faces showing up this time range from Lady Gaga to Ross Lynch to P Diddy

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

The latest Muppets film, Muppets Most Wanted, opens with a catchy and winkingly knowing tune about doing a follow-up film called We're Doing a Sequel, which includes lyrics such as, "Everybody knows that the sequel's never quite as good." It also features a surprise cameo by Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett singing about the sequel having an abundance of "one-line cameos." And boy, they aren't kidding.

Celebrity cameos have been a Muppets staple since the early days of their TV variety show, but the latest film takes the practice to new heights. "The Muppets are so beloved, especially by comedians, it doesn't usually take a lot of convincing," producer Todd Lieberman says. And indeed The Muppets Most Wanted features a dizzying array of celebrity cameos with little rhyme or reason to who shows up or how. Heck, some of them don't even get close-ups. So here's a handy guide to the famous faces on parade.

The main idea behind the cameos seems to be to serve as wide an array of viewers as possible, as it's unlikely there is a moviegoer out there equally excited about seeing both WWE star Dylan "Hornswoggle" Postl and Miranda Richardson. And fans of Teen Beach Movie star Ross Lynch probably won't recognize Looking star Russell Tovey making a delivery in one scene or care that that's Frank Langella officiating a wedding.

Lady Gaga and Tony Bennett aren't the only musicians to pop up, as Josh Groban, Usher, Sean Combs and Celine Dion swing by as well. And fans of comic book movies will be happy to see both the Avengers and the X-Men represented by Tom Hiddleston and James McAvoy, respectively. And Hunger Games announcers Stanley Tucci and Toby Jones each get some screen time.

Fans of the work of Julian Fellowes might notice that Downton Abbey star Hugh Bonneville shares a scene with Gosford Park lackey Tom Hollander. And appearances by both Christoph Waltz and Til Schweiger make for an unlikely Inglourious Basterds reunion. For soccer fans, "Goooooaaal!" enthusiast Andrés Cantor pops up as an announcer. And while most of the scene-stealers technically have characters to play, Salma Hayek, Saoirse Ronan, Danny Trejo, Combs and Waltz are apparently just playing themselves.

Perhaps the biggest surprise is that, for all the famous faces making appearances, there's no sign of Jason Segel or Amy Adams, the stars of the last movie, with stand-ins appearing in their place and shot from behind at the start of the new movie.

M.I.A. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Millions NFL is seeking from rapper still M.I.A.

Rapper M.I.A.'s feud with the NFL isn't going away, as the sports league has apparently been after her for two years to pay a $1.5 million US fine for flipping the bird during the 2012 halftime show, according to the Hollywood Reporter. And on top of that, the NFL is apparently looking for an additional $15.1 million US as "restitution" because of how much exposure the incident garnered M.I.A. The NFL maintains that her stunt was a "flagrant disregard for the values that form the cornerstone of the NFL brand and the Super Bowl" and that she breached an agreement to maintain the league's "reputation of wholesomeness," a charge her legal team finds laughable. "The claim for restitution lacks any basis in law, fact or logic," her reps says. "The continued pursuit of this proceeding is transparently an exercise by the NFL intended to bully and make an example of (M.I.A.) for daring to challenge the NFL." The rapper at least has a sense of humour about it, asking fellow halftime show performer Madonna if she could borrow $16 million in a tweet that was later deleted.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

LiLo's sex list Blooming with names

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Everyone! Important news! More names on Lindsay Lohan's sex list have been revealed! And yes, you will want to know who they are.

Earlier in the month, I told you about In Touch's "world exclusive" report, in which the mag somehow got a hold of Lindsay Lohan's handwritten conquest list. Heath Ledger, Adam Levine, Zac Efron, Justin Timberlake, Joaquin Phoenix, Colin Farrell, Evan Peters, Wilmer Valderrama and Jamie Dornan all made the cut, for better or worse. However, some of the names were blanked out for what everyone assumed were legal reasons — but now we know it was just a clever way for In Touch to drag the story on for as long as possible.

The new batch of names include Ashton Kutcher, Orlando Bloom, Benicio Del Toro, Ryan Phillippe, rugby player Danny Cipriani, NHL player Aaron Voros and director Josh Mond. So, there you go. Everyone famous who Lindsay Lohan has had sex with. The only person who is missing is Danny DeVito. And at this point, he probably didn't make it because she couldn't figure out how to spell DeVito.

Twitter

@solangeknowles
Think'n about adding "this is shade" to all my tweets that r actually shade, in the way u have to add "this is sponsored" to avoid confusion

@AnnaKendrick47
Hey fellow humans, when u see me out picking up prescriptions and want to get a photo, can u be super cool and just not do that? Thank you!!

@pattonoswalt
"That Sherlock Cumberbatch man could find the Malaysian plane in 5 minutes." -- someone's mom, probably

Is Schwartzman's pooch really a service dog?

Every dog owner has had a momentary flash of jealousy toward service dogs. Why does someone else get to bring his dog inside a restaurant, they think, while my precious baby has to wait in the car? Such is their love for their pooches that some owners even create false service dog badges and jackets for their darlings — temptingly easy to do, especially since dogs in outfits are always adorable. Now, it seems that Jason Schwartzman's dog Arrow has temporarily joined the service dog ranks.

Grand Budapest Hotel star Schwartzman was recently in Austin for SXSW, with French bulldog Arrow in tow. Master and pup were spotted in the Austin airport preparing to board a flight, and Arrow was wearing a service dog badge, according to Page Six.

So what service is Arrow providing to Schwartzman? Hard to say. Service dogs are used for a variety of conditions, not all of which are visible to the naked eye. However, there are numerous photos of Schwartzman and Arrow out and about together, with no sign of a service badge in sight. Maybe Arrow's a recent grad from his training — or maybe Schwartzman just didn't want to relegate his furry friend to a crate.

Jason Schwartzman

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Keeping it Karl and collected

The shades of showmanship. In the wake of his new flagship store opening and perfume launch, we sat down with Karl Lagerfeld to talk about street style, scents and his ever-growing list of projects

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News

'This is why I don't do selfies. I hate selfies! It's too wide, it's too wide! Take the light away. Okay, I'll go to the shelf over there,' Karl Lagerfeld says.

We're in a hotel suite in Mayfair, London, and I'm following him from one corner of the room to another as we search for good lighting and the right angle for the perfect selfie.

'Oh wait,' he gives my iPhone back to me, 'Please turn it. I can only see you. I can take a selfie of you, hmmm?' Karl then settles for a softly lit spot next to a bookshelf.

He looks remarkably spry and energetic considering that he's just gotten off a plane from Paris for a quick trip here to celebrate the launch of his first flagship store in the UK for his eponymous clothing line and his new perfume range, which is now available in stores globally.

He plans to fly back as soon as the parties are over. ('He doesn't like to be away from Choupette for too long,' one of his team members tells me.) But first there is an interview to do and selfies to take. 'I think they're electronic masturbation,' he says. But he does one for us anyway.

Click and clothe: Karl Lagerfeld's new store in London has iPads built into its changing room walls so customers can take selfies while they shop.
PROVIDED

Death to all things dull

"The only thing that tires me is when I'm bored. Boredom is the most tiring thing. Perhaps people have boring lives. I have no time for that, eh?"

You've opened a new store and launched a new perfume. This is a big week for you.

This is a big week but I'm used to this kind of week so I don't consider them really big. For me it's a normal week. I do so many things at the same time. I do photos. I work on the collections to come, cruise and all that. For me, something like a launch in Paris is almost like recreation for me. Because it's different from the normal daily discipline and work.

Well, I think that in addition to bottling your perfume you should bottle your energy and sell that in your stores.

Yes, but I need it myself so I can't sell those bottles, hmm? My energy in a way improved with age. When I was very young I had very low blood pressure and was tired all the time. Now, I'm just tired to go to bed and sleep. But I'm not tired in the rest of the day. The only thing that tires me is when I'm bored. Boredom is the most tiring thing. Perhaps people have boring lives. I have no time for that, eh?

Karl and Kenya's successful selfie.
KENYA'S PHONE

Your clothes are obvious hits on the street style circuit. What do you say to those who argue that street style culture has gone too far?

This is a fake problem. Everything changes. I think in today's world there's also big change in magazines and in the collections. We live in the middle of change. Look at how the world has changed since this and all that. The computer has changed it all. Fashion is about change and the world is about change too. The changes in the world are not as quick as the changes in fashion. But we are in the middle of a huge change. I say, don't compare the present to the past if you want to survive happily in the next period. You have to adapt. Times don't have to adapt to you. And then you start to say, 'Oh the good old days'. And then you're over.

Before we go, any dos and don'ts for habitual perfume wearers?

I wear several perfumes at the same time. You know why? Because if you only use one you don't smell it anymore. And then you put so much on that other people nearly faint when they see you, while you don't think you smell at all. So it's good for the nose to change. And then there are perfumes that I like to put on sheets and curtains.

Where do you normally like to wear it? Behind the ear, on your wrist?

Only on the clothes. Never on the skin. That's not the best thing to do. Even today it's less dangerous than in the past. In the past it was dangerous you know? In the past if you used bergamot and then went into the sun, you got sun spots. That's why women used to put it behind the ears because it's a place that the sun won't touch. I hate to have sun spots on my hands, that's why I wear the gloves. You have to take care of these things, you know? You don't have this kind of problem but I have.

Karl! You've done so many things.

Never enough.

You once said that you would never put your name to toilet paper.

I haven't been proposed with that kind of project yet and I don't think it's that chic but it's stuff everybody needs so that could change my mind.

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Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Rea McNamara

Occupation: Assistant Art Curator

What she's wearing:
A mix of closet staples, hand-me-downs and borrows! The denim vest came from a sale at the Levi's outlet many moons ago in Cookstown. The crochet Henley shirt came from a garbage bag full of clothes an ex-roommate of a friend left behind. The Anne Klein white shirt was a hand-me-down from my ex's mom. The long black skirt was a Junction vintage find, but deliberately buttoned-up haphazardly to look like a Comme des Garçons piece.

Her inspiration:
Diana Ross in Mahogany

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Trends Report

Ugly shoes are set to be the next big trend this spring, seen all over the runways at Milan and Paris fashion weeks. Go online to Trends Report and take a look at the 'ugly' shoes, which seem to go after comfort first, and let me know — would you choose heels or step into a pair of these?

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo: Getty Images

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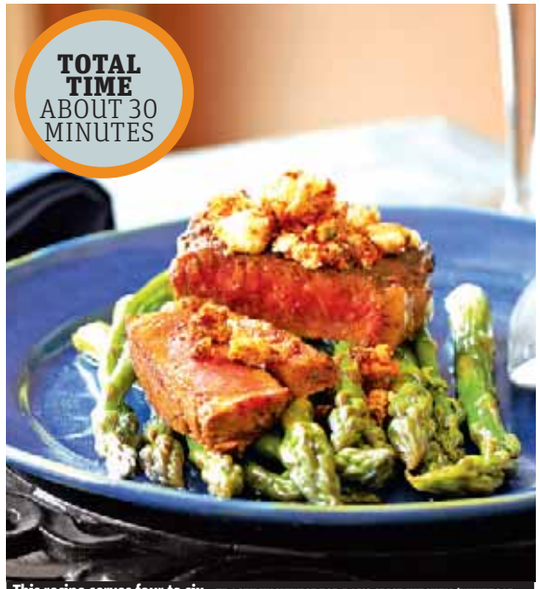

This recipe serves four to six. TRACEY KUSIEWICZ FOR BAL'S SPICE KITCHEN (WHITECAP, 2014)

"Infused with the spices I chose for this recipe, this is a rare treat for your guests or just for you. I have cooked this several times just for myself and thoroughly enjoyed it with a nice glass of red wine," writes Bal Arneson in her book Bal's Spice Kitchen.

1. To make steak masala: In a skillet, toast the cumin seeds, fennel seeds, mustard seeds and peppercorns on medium-low heat until the spice aromas fill the air, about 30 seconds. Turn off the heat and let the pan cool. Process the spices in a spice grinder until coarsely ground, then add the fenugreek leaves, paprika, chili flakes and salt, and give the grinder a quick spin.

2. Preheat the grill to medium-high. Sprinkle the steak masala on the steaks. Gently place the steaks on the heated grill and cook for about 3 to 5 minutes on each side for medium steaks, or to your preferred doneness. Let them sit for a few minutes before serving.

3. To make the toasted coriander blue cheese: Toast the coriander seeds on low heat in a skillet for 30 seconds. Let them cool, then crush them with your hands. In a bowl, thoroughly combine the coriander seeds, blue cheese and paprika.

4. To make the sautéed asparagus: In a saucepan, heat the oil on medium-high. Add the garlic and cook for 30 seconds. Add the asparagus and salt and pepper and cook, stirring frequently, until the asparagus is tender, about 10 to 12 minutes.

5. To plate the dish: Place the asparagus on a plate. Slice the cooked steaks and crumble Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese on top.

EXCERPTED FROM BAL'S SPICE KITCHEN (WHITECAP, 2014)

FLASH FOOD
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Ingredients

Steak Masala
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) cumin seeds
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) fennel seeds
- 1 tsp (5 ml) brown mustard seeds
- 1 tsp (5 ml) black peppercorns
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) fenugreek leaves
- 1 tsp (15 ml) smoked paprika
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) red chili flakes
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt

Steak
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) steak masala
- four 6 oz (175 g) dry-aged rib-eye steak (I prefer 1 1/2-inch/4 cm thick)

Toasted Coriander Blue Cheese
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) coriander seeds
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) blue cheese
- 1 tsp (5 ml) smoked paprika

Sautéed Asparagus
- 1 tbsp (5 ml) cooking oil
- 1 tbsp (5 ml) chopped garlic
- 1 lb (500 g) asparagus, hard ends removed
- salt and pepper to taste

Cookbook of the Week

Spice up your life

The latest release from Bal Arneson, Bal's Spice Kitchen, has a two-fold premise: spice is the key to delicious cooking and making flavourful meals doesn't need to be time consuming. Using traditional Indian recipes as her inspiration, Arneson shows chefs how to complement their favourite dishes with new spice combinations.

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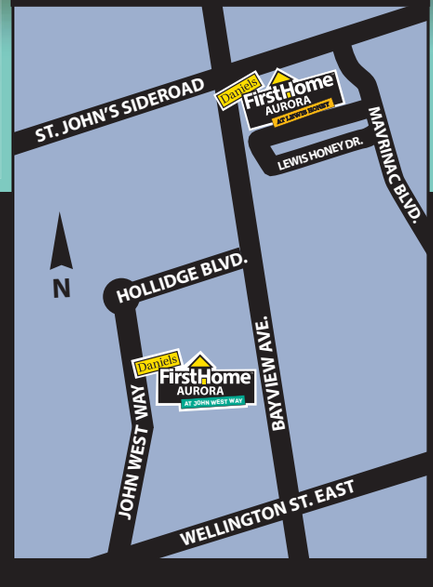

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For developers, the future is now

Teched out. Condo builders are offering advanced infrastructure for all our gizmo needs

CONDO TRENDS
Duncan McAllister
life@metronews.ca

As we all know, condo owners tend to be sophisticated knowledge workers immersed in all the latest gizmos and services. Developers are taking notice by "baking in" high-tech infrastructure in an attempt to future-proof their buildings.

Many new builds are pre-wiring underground parking lots with electric car recharging stations. Despite the fact there aren't many electric cars yet, developers are smart to deploy the technology now rather than later.

A new package by Tower Hill Development at their 2221 Yonge condos offers buyers a Rogers home monitoring package bundled with TV, Internet and telephone service. They've prewired the front door and thermostat and provide a wireless camera so residents can keep an eye on things from the office.

Chaz Yorkville is offering its residents a convenient new software app to keep them in tune with their building. Bazinga! is a community-building platform that lets residents view special events in the building, book a party room or guest suite, and even get a little help finding neighbourhood hot spots like restaurants and entertainment venues.

In a world dominated by bandwidth-gobbling games and apps, and the advent of 4K television (four times the resolution of Blu-ray), the future of condos will require an infrastructure that's able to keep up. "Fibre to the suite" is a new trend whereby a single optical fibre brings all your services into the home.

Shawn Omstead is VP of residential product management at Bell Canada. "For new builds, there's really no reason why we have to terminate the fibre in the basement," he says. "We can just literally go up to the suite and have been doing that for the last couple of years now."

By deploying to the suite, says Omstead, the sky is the limit for bandwidth. "It really future-proofs you for whatever application no one's thought of yet that's going to consume 500 megabytes, you never have to worry that your technology won't be able to keep up. Today we max out at 175 meg. as our fastest Internet service."

So who or what could possibly eat that many bits and bytes? "It's really less about what one person would do, it's what a family is doing. So if you have a family of four people simultaneously watching TV plus recording three shows in the background on a PVR, it's less about one application. It's really about all the applications that are happening in the condo simultaneously." says Omstead.

Thinking ahead

"It really future-proofs you for whatever application no one's thought of yet that's going to consume 500 megabytes, you never have to worry that your technology won't be able to keep up."

Shawn Omstead, VP of residential product management at Bell Canada
on setting up condo suites with advanced bandwidth infrastructure

One of the goals for waterfront Toronto is to have some of the most advanced, intelligent community networks in the world. Canary District condos is teaming up with Beanfield Metroconnect to bring high-speed internet and services to the West Don Lands in time for the 2015 Pan-American Games. CONTRIBUTED

Chaz Yorkville condos offers a computer gamers' arena designed with the hard-core gamer in mind. The high-end, networked workstations will have 4K video screens designed for competitions. CONTRIBUTED

Legal Matters

Refinancing Charges

LEGAL MATTERS
Jeffrey Cowan
home@metronews.ca

I am refinancing my house at a much better interest rate than I am currently paying. However, when I sat down with my lawyer to go through the paperwork, I realized that the bank was making me pay out some of my current debts as a condition of the financing. In one case, the bank is making my lawyer close one of my credit cards: the one that I use most frequently. I was surprised by this and will have to rearrange some of my pre-payments that come off the closed credit card. Why are they insisting on doing this?

This is not an infrequent condition of financing and is easily explainable from the bank's perspective.

The financial institution wants to make sure that their mortgagees have as little alternate debt as possible and strive to have their clients' short term debt cleaned up. They want to make sure there will be no issue with respect to the first priority mortgage payments.

Although many people who refinance their properties look at this as an intrusion, in the greater scheme of things, they are getting their shaky credit cleaned up by consolidating debt and putting themselves in a much better credit position.

Follow Jeff Cowan on Twitter @Cowan_Law or on the website cowanlaw.ca, or email him at jeff@cowanlaw.ca

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Ceiling the deal with colour that hits the high spots

White isn't the only option. Colourful ceiling exceptions to the blank canvas rule

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

I am re-painting the inside of my house this spring and I'd like to paint the ceilings a colour other than white. What are the designer rules? — Caren Lim, Vancouver

I'm sure you've often heard that ceilings should always be painted white, as it helps bounce natural light down into the room and offers visual relief from all the other colours and patterns in a room. That decorator rule holds true most of the time, but there are a few exceptions when changing up the colour of the ceiling has some advantages.

Extra-high ceilings

An extra-high ceiling in a small room can make a room feel smaller as it throws the proportion of the room off, giving it the cracker-jack box effect. Painting the ceiling (and any crown moldings) the same colour as the walls will help to visually lower the ceiling and soften the edge from wall to ceiling.

Vaulted rooms

Angled ceilings and walls are often features on the upper floors of older homes. A trick to take away the angles is to paint the walls, angled areas and ceiling the same colour. Wallpapering everything with a small patterned print will also help visually take away any distinct angles. Another trick is to add tall beadboard wainscotting to the walls, then paint the remaining top wall space and ceiling a great colour.

Generous to a vault

Painting the ceiling (and any crown moldings) the same colour as the walls will help to visually lower the ceiling and soften the edge from wall to ceiling.

A room with dark walls

Whenever I paint a very dark room (like a cranberry red dining room or navy blue family room) I paint the ceiling a much lighter version of the floor colour. For example, if the wood floors in a dining room are golden oak, then I'd paint the ceilings a very pale golden taupe colour. This helps take away that crisp light-to-dark edge that would happen with dark walls and white ceiling. It softens the feeling of the room and helps to create a nice glow in the room. Using a gloss paint with dramatic wall colours can also add a touch of glamour and is becoming a big trend.

Wallpaper on a ceiling

The only time I have ever seen wallpaper work well on a ceiling is when a gold or silver-leafed paper was applied, giving the ceiling a sheen and lux touch. This looks exceptionally great in dramatic rooms like dining, powder or bedrooms where silver or gold metal tones are used.

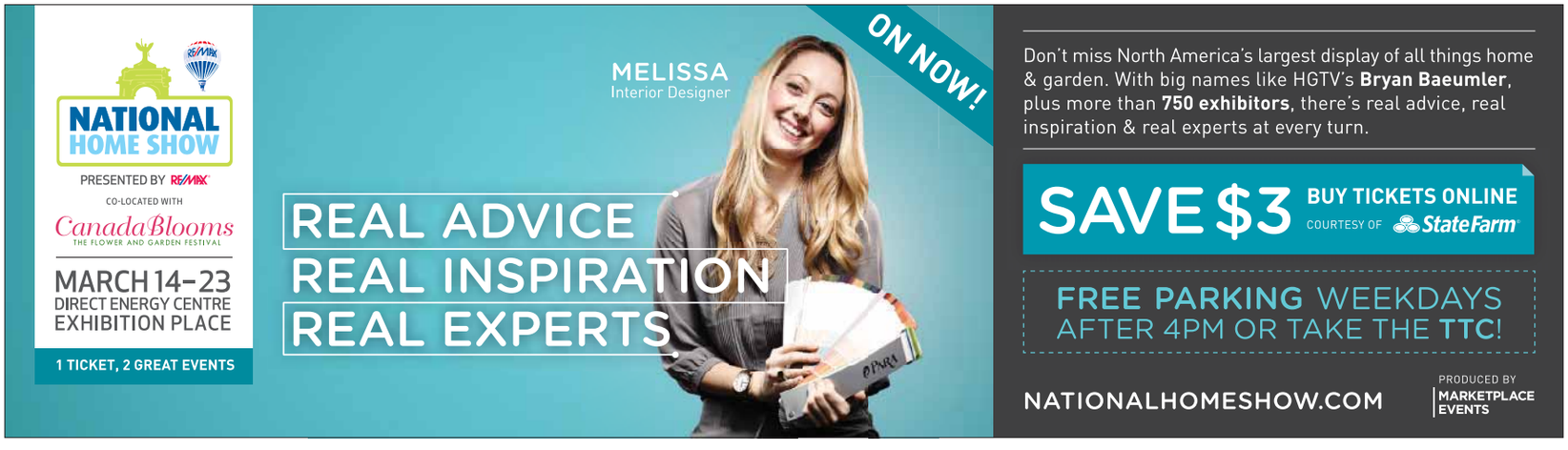
In basements

A very-barely-there blue is a great option as it keeps the room feeling bright. Blue is also a reflective colour that helps brighten dingy spaces.

White walls: Trick the eye by adding tall beadboard wainscotting and painting the wall above and the ceiling in a great colour. CONTRIBUTED

Crowning glory: For a dramatic touch, gold-leafed paper provides a luxurious sheen. CONTRIBUTED

Come together: Papering ceilings and walls in a small patterned print minimizes angles. CONTRIBUTED



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Harmony Village: Community built from the ground floor up

An exterior view of Harmony Village. CONTRIBUTED

Meet the condo

- **What.** Harmony Village
- **Builder.** City Core Developments
- **Location.** 3260 Sheppard Ave. E. at Warden
- **Architect.** Page + Steele IBI Group Architects
- **Website.** harmonyvillage.ca
- **Pricing.** Starting at $177,500
- **Sizes.** From 388 to 1,581 sq. ft.
- **Suites.** One bedroom, one bedroom plus den, two bedroom, two bedroom plus den and townhomes
- **Status.** Grand opening Saturday, March 22

Project overview

City Core's newest LEED gold-designed residential condominium community, Harmony Village Sheppard aims to meet the needs of all residents through universal design and a community-focused lifestyle. Featuring geothermal and solar heating, cooling technologies and three times the normal insulation.

Location and transit

The community will have street-level front access to the proposed LRT and there's TTC bus service in all directions. Drivers will have quick access to the Don Valley Parkway and Highways 404 and 401.

In the neighbourhood

Residents will enjoy access to a 100-seat banquet facility, a 7,000-square-foot restaurant, tea room and cappuccino bar on-site. Surrounded by parks and the Tam O'Shanter Golf Club.

Building amenities

The project features a 30,000-square-foot community centre, with a teaching kitchen for culinary classes and a wine cellar, along with lifestyle amenities including a full-sized swimming pool, fitness facility, yoga studio, Jacuzzi hot tubs, and change rooms with steam showers.

Renovation awards

Recognizing remarkable renovations

BRYAN TUCKEY
President and CEO of the Building Industry and Land Development Association (BILD) can be found at twitter.com/bildgta, facebook.com/bildgta, and bildblogs.ca.

Members of our association gathered last week to celebrate excellence in the renovation industry by recognizing the GTA's top renovators at the Renovation and Custom Home Awards.

Each category looks at renovations in a specific price point ranging from under $75,000 to more than $500,000. This means our judges look at projects as small as a simple bathroom renovation or as large as a fully rebuilt house.

In the Best Renovation Under $75,000 category, Golden Bee Homes Inc. captured the award with an impeccable bathroom renovation project.

W.C. Meek Design and Construction Ltd. was awarded in the Best Renovation $75,000-$150,000 category for recreating a kitchen into a multifunctional space for both cooking and entertaining.

In the Best Renovation more than $500,000 category, Upside Inc. stood out above the rest after building a 4,000-square-foot ravine home from a completely reconstructed bungalow with a very specific design criteria.

The most prestigious Renovator of the Year was awarded to Eurodale Developments for the second time in four years. The award is bestowed on a renovator who sets the standard for the rest of the sector in their leadership and commitment to customer service.

All the winners are members of the RenoMark program, which recognizes professional renovators across Canada. Before-and-after photos of the entries can be viewed at BILD's Destination Renovation exhibit, located at booth 1916 at the National Home Show. The event runs until Sunday at the Direct Energy Centre, Exhibition Place.

What's hot on the condo market

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1. Open House

Downtown condo suite near Spadina and the waterfront. Two bedroom plus den, 1,200 sq. ft. Head over to 25 Telegram Mews, March 22 and 23 from 2 to 4 p.m.

CONTACT: 416-966-0300

2. Craft Show

One of a Kind Spring Show and Sale. Perfect for your new condo. Head over to the Direct Energy Centre, 100 Princes' Blvd., at Exhibition Place. March 26 to 30.

CONTACT: 416-960-3680, ONEOFAKINDSHOW.COM

3. New Release

Cornell Markham by Ballantry Homes, urban towns, semis and freehold. March 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Head up to the sales centre at Riverlands Avenue between Bur Oak and Cornell Centre Avenue in Markham.

CONTACT: 905-294-0221, BALLANTRYHOMES.COM

4. Grand Opening

Grand Cornell Brownstones in Markham, condominium townhomes by Lindvest. March 22 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Visit the sales centre at Ninth Line, south of Highway 7, Markham.

CONTACT: 416-635-7575, LINDVEST.COM

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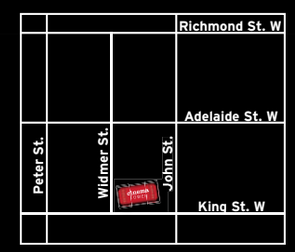

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Rehab your rubbish

DIY. Give wooden salvage a second life with four ideas that turn junk into gems

Every homeowner is guilty of abandoning old home furnishings that were left to collect dust. Don't wait any longer to rescue your forgotten gems from the dust bunnies in the back of your closet, attic or garage. Consider transforming odds and ends into helpful household items which can be both cost effective and practical. You may discover that even the most seemingly useless items can be functional again with a little inspiration and a touch of creativity.

Salvage Dawgs

- For more DIY ideas on salvaging old finds, tune into Salvage Dawgs, Tuesdays at 9:30 p.m. on DIY Network Canada.

4 ways to repurpose household items

When opportunity knocks

Give your morning coffee and newspaper a place to relax by repurposing an old wooden door into a new coffee table. First, sand down the wood to ensure that there are no rough areas that may cause splinters or harm and then either paint or stain the wood. Next, salvage legs of the same length from old furniture, or make your own, and attach them to the bottom. Choose a rustic look by leaving it bare, or give it a sophisticated touch with the addition of a glass top.

Solve your window panes

Never forget to pick up groceries again by turning a plain window frame into a versatile cork board. Use double-sided tape to fasten cork behind the window frame and mount it on a wall in your home. Use push pins to post notes, grocery lists and reminders as well as pictures to add a personal touch to your home. For additional convenience, consider adding a shelf to set down your house and car keys.

Stairway to spick and span

Organize your front hall area and impress your guests by showing off a new convenient coat rack created from an old stairway banister. Simply coat the wood with a splash of paint, attach the banister to a sturdy stand, add some hooks, and you'll have a new home for coats and accessories.

Shutter the clutter

If your mail pile is mayhem, consider the shutter solution by converting wooden window shutters into a practical mail and letter holder. The shutter solution is a great way to give your home a pop of colour or to experiment with stencilling for a unique design. Once you have decided on the design, mount the shutter to your desired area and watch the cluttered chaos disappear.

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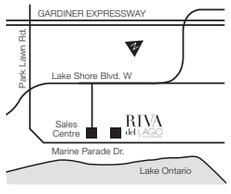

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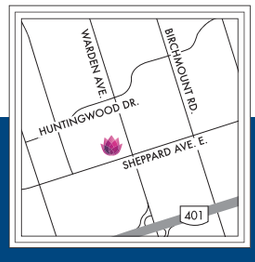

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Height and proportion are important considerations when hanging art at home. SHELLEY KIRSCH DESIGN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Let it all hang art at home

Frame of mind. Master a few picture-hanging skills and you'll be playing to the gallery

How art and pictures are hung can change the way a space looks, but placing and hanging pieces properly requires a bit of skill.

Interior designer Shelley Kirsch says the most important step in putting up art in a home is to make sure it is at the right height.

Height matters

"It's a good idea if you are hanging a piece to get it so the centre of the picture is at eye level," she says.

If a piece is hung too high, Kirsch says, it can be disorienting to the viewer.

Putting a photo or painting above a couch requires considering the height of people sitting below it.

According to Kirsch, a homeowner should get a person of average height to sit on the couch and then measure 23 centimetres above and make a mark, which is where the base of the frame should be.

"If people are trying to hang something over a sofa they have to make sure when someone is sitting on the sofa their head won't be hitting the picture," says Kirsch.

See the light

Before a homeowner puts the art on the wall, Kirsch recommends looking at how the surrounding lighting will shine on the piece.

"Make sure when you are hanging your art the lighting that is shining on the piece isn't bisecting or trisecting it," she says. "You have to be conscious about how light is reflecting in the area where the piece is being hung. What you want to do is try to get an even arch. If you are dealing with pot lights like most people are, you want to make sure the whole image is being washed, not just a portion of it."

On the level

When it comes to making sure your painting is straight, Jenny Martin recommends using two hooks to make sure the piece doesn't slump.

"You can use a level to help make sure the piece is straight, and there are specific tools on the market to help hang art, but I don't know if they are that great," says the Victoria interior designer. "If you are using a wire on the back of a piece of art, that leaves more room for it to swing and move around which isn't going to keep it as straight, which is why I recommend using two fixed hooks."

Group dynamic

Instead of the traditional look of photos centred in a linear line on the wall, many homeowners are choosing to group multiple pieces together to create a collage-type feature.

Martin says homeowners should take time to map out the grouping they are going for before they start putting nails in the wall, and to pick a common theme among the pieces. "If you keep one element constant throughout the grouping it creates a great effect," she says. "You could have a whole bunch of coloured frames, but all the prints are black and white, or you could have frames that are the same colour but are different profiles, sizes and mouldings."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Easels, tracks and rails

While the most common way to put a piece up on a wall is with a hammer and hook, there are many other products such as gallery-style tracks, which allow homeowners more flexibility with changing pieces.

- "There are other hanging systems that don't make marks on the wall that are adjustable," says Jenny Martin. "Easels can be fun as well, making larger pieces a sculptural element.
- "Picture rails are also fun. You use pieces of trim and make a ledge that you can set pieces on and lean them against the wall."

4 SPORTS

Curling

Canada on top at women's worlds

Canada's Rachel Homan downed South Korea's Ji-sun Kim 10-3 at the women's world curling championship Wednesday.

Homan's Ottawa Curling Club team moved atop the standings at 8-1 and had the evening draw off.

The top four teams at the conclusion of the preliminary round Thursday advance to playoffs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MMA

Humphries slides into UFC Octagon

Olympian Kaillie Humphries is moving from the bobsled track to the Octagon.

The 28-year-old Calgary native, who piloted Canada to gold at the Sochi Games in two-man bobsled, tweeted Tuesday that she would be at The Ultimate Fighter Nations Finale card on April 16 in Quebec City.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL

Peverley on mend after surgery

The Dallas Stars say Rich Peverley has undergone successful surgery to correct an abnormal heart rhythm, just more than a week after the forward collapsed on the bench during a game.

Stars general manager Jim Nill says Peverley was released from the Cleveland Clinic on Wednesday, a day after surgery. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Steven Stamkos scores his third goal on Wednesday night in the Lightning's 5-3 win over the Maple Leafs at Air Canada Centre. DAVID COOPER/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Banged-up Leafs look wobbly down stretch

NHL. Stamkos lights up ACC as Toronto playoff berth is still up in the air

When James Reimer gave up a goal on the first shot he faced, it looked like it would be another long night for the Toronto Maple Leafs.

By the time Reimer and the Leafs lost 5-3 to the Tampa Bay Lightning at Air Canada Centre on Wednesday night, the condition of injured defenceman Paul Ranger overshadowed a third straight defeat and one that could hurt Toronto's playoff chances.

On Wednesday

Lightning	Maple Leafs
5	3

Ranger was taken to a local hospital with a head injury suffered late in the first period when he was crushed into the boards by Tampa Bay's Alex Killorn. The 29-year-old's head hit the glass, and he remained on the ice for roughly seven minutes before medical personnel put him on a stretcher and took him off.

The Leafs issued an update via Twitter saying that Ranger was "stable, conscious and alert" after being taken to the hospital for a "precautionary assessment."

Ranger's injury came with 4.1 seconds left in the first period of the Leafs' loss, which featured a natural hat trick from Lightning star Steven Stamkos, who scored his three goals on three shots.

Radko Gudas scored Tampa Bay's first goal just 59 seconds into the first period from just inside the blue-line.

The Leafs answered with goals by Phil Kessel, his team-leading 35th of the season, and Nikolai Kulemin. After falling behind 4-2, Jake Gardiner scored in the third period, but Toronto could not beat Vezina Trophy candidate Ben Bishop (36 saves) again the rest of the night, and Tyler Johnson added an insurance goal for the Lightning. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Recast Toronto FC find friend in Defoe

MLS. English striker has a history of making grand entrances

Jermain Defoe seems to have a knack for making a great first impression.

His debut for Toronto FC on Saturday in the club's season opener was a memorable one — two goals on his first two touches. Toronto downed Seattle 2-1 before a massive crowd on the west coast to open a new era in TFC history.

And back in 2004, when he debuted for Tottenham as a 21-year-old, he also scored a goal in Spurs' 4-2 win over Portsmouth.

Now, with TFC preparing for its home opener this Saturday against D.C. United, Defoe had a chance to reflect back on his penchant for making an early contribution to his team.

"They're different goals," Defoe said after a TFC workout Wednesday. "I seem to be making a habit of it, though. I've always been so focused on my debuts that I've been lucky enough to score in every debut."

Defoe and the rest of the revamped TFC roster are preparing for what promises to be a tremendous, sold-out reception at BMO Field.

With all the anticipation, Defoe and his teammates are trying to remain focused — and they all stress that the squad is still a work in progress — but Defoe did manage a half-smile at his two-goal performance.

And Defoe isn't the only one who's taken notice of his early MLS success.

"I got a lot of texts from the players from Tottenham, a lot of messages," Defoe said.

Defoe is hoping his performances are also being watched by England national team manager Roy Hodgson, who is preparing his team for the upcoming World Cup in June.

While a couple of TFC newcomers look like locks for the big tournament, 31-year-old Defoe remains on the bubble, and will be looking to prove himself worthy of inclusion.

But Defoe stresses that his main focus is TFC. The eyes of the city — indeed, the entire league — will be on him and the team on Saturday at 4:30, as they look to provide some good news to the club's long-suffering fans.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The Reds go marching in

"I've heard from a lot of people that there's a buzz around the city."

Toronto striker Jermain Defoe talks about the anticipation among soccer fans ahead of Saturday's home opener against D.C.

Champions League

Van Persie shines in United win

Robin van Persie scored a hat trick as Manchester United beat Olympiakos 3-0 to qualify for the quarterfinals of the Champions League, overturning a 2-0 deficit from the first leg.

The Netherlands striker converted a penalty in the 25th minute, side-footed home his second goal in first-half injury time and curled in a free kick in the 52nd, completing a stirring second-leg comeback.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dutch striker Robin van Persie celebrates scoring the opening goal from the penalty spot.

LAURENCE GRIFFITHS/GETTY IMAGES

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Raptors keep Pelicans from spreading their wings

Pelicans guard Eric Gordon drives to the basket against the Raptors Nando de Colo in New Orleans on Wednesday. The Raptors won 107-100. Toronto's DeMar DeRozan scored a game-high 31 points, while Kyle Lowry chipped in with 23. Jonas Valanciunas was absent from the Raptors' lineup with a sprained lower back. JONATHAN BACHMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadians playing key roles in March Madness craze

NCAA basketball.

Canucks from coast to coast in tournament speak to improved product north of border

The sheer numbers are impressive and will make Canadian basketball fans sit up and take notice of the continued emergence of the game in the country.

But it is more than the two dozen-plus Canadians who'll contest NCAA March Madness starting this week.

To Rowan Barrett, the assistant general manager of Canada's senior men's team and one of the iconic athletes this country has produced, the numbers only tell part of the story.

When fans start tuning in Thursday, the phenomenon is not the quantity but rather the quality.

"These are players in prominent roles," Barrett said in a telephone interview from Los Angeles on Wednesday afternoon. "They are conference MVPs, conference freshmen of the year. It's not just that they are in the tournament, they have major roles and are drivers of their teams."

Michigan's Nik Stauskas, of Mississauga, was named the Big Ten conference's player of the year. ADAM HUNGER/GETTY IMAGES

The top players everyone knows — NBA prospects like Andrew Wiggins, the Big 12 freshman of the year at Kansas; Tyler Ennis of Syracuse, a mid-season finalist for the Wooden Award that goes to the top NCAA player, and Nik Stauskas of Michigan, one of the best shooters in U.S. college basketball.

But there are others, like Big 12 player of the year and scholar-athlete of the year Melvin Ejim of Iowa State and Dwight Powell of Stanford, another mid-season Wooden finalist.

The contributions of the 27 Canadians in the tournament should turn some heads.

For Barrett, the depth of talent speaks to the improved caliber of play across the country. Traditionally the overwhelming majority of top Canadian prospects came from Toronto and southern Ontario, but that is not the case any longer.

Khem Birch, second in the NCAA in blocked shots, is from Montreal while Jordan Bachynski, the NCAA leader in blocks is from Calgary; the talent can be found from coast to coast.

"I think it shows the next generation that background doesn't matter," said Barrett. "They see these players from all over, it's exciting for Canada and Canadian basketball.

"They don't go down there to just play. They go down there and player their way into important, major roles."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

The prez says...

Obama sides with Michigan State

President Barack Obama is picking Michigan State to win the NCAA men's basketball championship over defending champion Louisville. In what has become an annual March Madness tradition at the White House, Obama filled out a bracket in a segment broadcast on ESPN Wednesday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syracuse

Orange aim to wipe out blues

C.J. Fair was a loser on Senior Day in the Carrier Dome and in the only Atlantic Coast Conference tournament game he'll ever play. Enough already for Syracuse's smooth-shooting swingman.

Fair and the Orange (27-5), the third seed in the South, have a chance to set things straight again when they face No. 14 Western Michigan (22-9) in the second round of the NCAA tournament on Thursday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Slam dunking funds

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The amount the outplacement firm of Challenger, Gray & Christmas estimates is wasted by U.S. employers for every hour their employees obsess over the March Madness tournament.

Thursday, March 20, 2014

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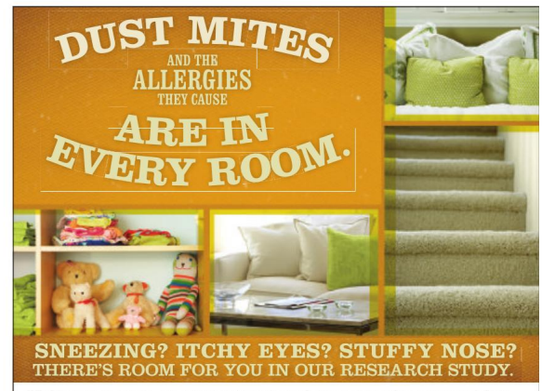

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
The Sun moves into your sign today, so there can be no more excuses. You know what you want, you know how to get it and you know that if you make a genuine effort nothing can stop you. The world is yours.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Cosmic activity in the most sensitive area of your chart means you may tend to fear the worst over the next few days, but that is quite natural. How good or how bad you feel is really up to you alone.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
There are so many positive influences for friendship at the moment that you would be a fool not to take advantage. If you need assistance in any way just open your mouth.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you want to move up in the world, it's time to get yourself noticed. It does not matter how much talent you have, what truly matters is that you have a clear goal in mind and that you go after it.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
Nothing matters more than the truth and if you keep that in mind over the next few days, you won't go far wrong. The truth may at times be uncomfortable but that is not an excuse to ignore it.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
The Sun's change of signs means you need to change too. It also means you need to get rid of ideas you are comfortable with but which in are holding you back.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
There is no point trying to keep plans to yourself because loved ones and co-workers will find out about them. You have nothing to hide, so let them know what you are up to.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It is one thing to be a hard worker but another to waste time and energy on tasks that mean nothing to you. Your aim today must be to decide what is important to you and what should be trashed.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The Sun's move into your fellow Fire sign of Aries endows you with the kind of self-belief that moves mountains. There is a world out there waiting to be impressed by your brilliance.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You don't need to explain why you are doing certain things. Others will respect you more if you are confident about following your dreams. Don't complain. Don't explain. Don't apologize. Just act.

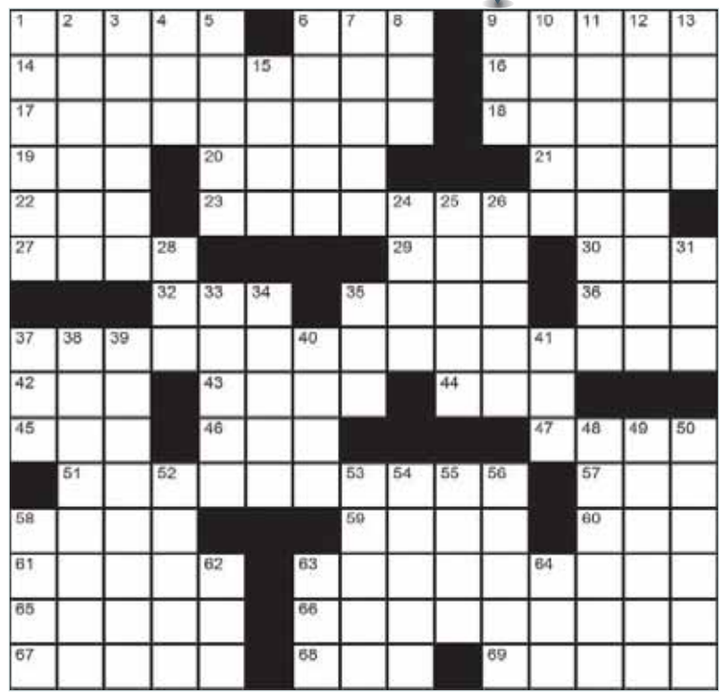
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
The Sun moves in your favour today, making it easy to get your own way. Does that fill your head with ideas? It should, and each one of those ideas is entirely legitimate.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There is not much point trying to appeal to someone's common sense when they are hell bent on following a course of action that is irrational. Let them get on with it and make sure you keep a safe distance between you. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

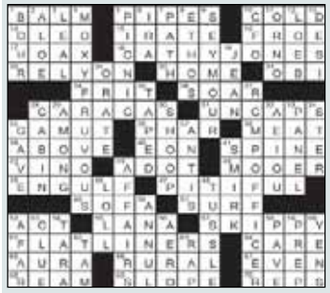
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Some citrus fruits
6. Food grain
9. 2250 the old way
14. Spring, in Sherbrooke
16. Family band from Lakefield, ON
17. Yukon's official tree, __ Fir
18. Hell's master
19. 'Speed' suffix
20. Strauss' Tausend und __ Nacht
21. Positioned horizontally
22. Nero's 551
23. Mid-coast of BC community, 'Home of the Rain People': 2 wds.
27. Gas station
29. Pot
30. Belief system
32. Ms. Thurman
35. During
36. Hide __ hair
37. Corb Lund and the __ __
42. __-locka, Florida
43. Increases
44. Picture
45. Puny paranormal power
46. Jersey's call
47. Hic, __, hoc
51. Nova Scotia town
57. Sight: French
58. Ancient colonnade
59. Decorative case
60. "Michael Collins" (1996) org.
61. Maison's entrance
63. Distinctions
65. "Our Father which __ __ heaven..."
66. Craigellachie, BC: Where the Canadian Pacific Railway's ceremonial __ __ was driven into the track in 1885
67. Do more lawn work
68. Tropical cuckoo
69. Set of three

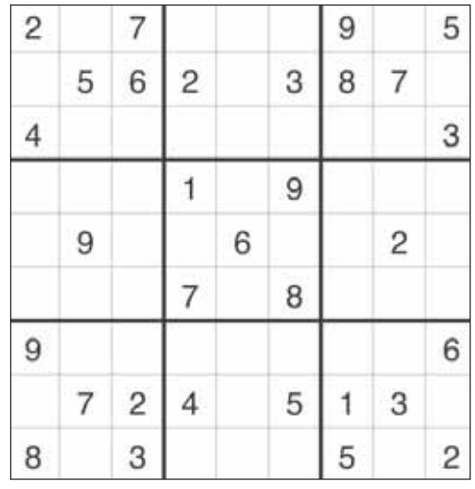
Down
1. Advantage
2. Porridges
3. Ex __ (Book label)
4. Once __ __ lifetime
5. 'The Great' canonized pope, __. __
6. GNR's "Sweet Child __ __"
7. Sleep __
8. Blood-sucker, when doubled
9. Real estate database, commonly
10. AC/DC's "You Shook __ __ Night Long"
11. Type of salad dressing
12. "Beat This Heart" by Tim __ feat. Serena Ryder
13. Actress, Jamie-__ Sigler
15. Grand
24. Unfeeling
25. Restaurant side order
26. Outkast member, __ 3000
28. Away
31. "__. Doubtfire" (1993)
33. Florida locale
34. Sometimes, Off __ __
35. Montreal football players, to fans
37. Horticulturist's helper
38. American shipping company that has franchises in Canada, The _ _ _ __
39. Camaraderies
40. What Snoopy is, __ __
41. Word with Beatles ...how it's commonly mis-typed
48. "Addicted to You" Swedish DJ/producer
49. "I get it now!"
50. Discontinued
52. Mathematical proportion
53. Macho guy
54. "__ __ _." (Posh "Here's me!")
55. Theatre great, Alfred __
56. "Villain, thou __..." - Shakespeare
58. Box
62. Stop
63. Old music high note
64. American airer since '71

Yesterday's Crossword

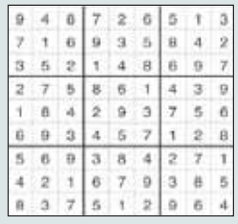


Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku



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Friday
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2014
ACCENT 4-DR L

5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

LEASE FOR ONLY **$75** BI-WEEKLY

AT **0%†** FOR 60 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

CANADA'S BEST LEASE RATE

LEASE FOR ONLY **$85** BI-WEEKLY

AT **0%†** FOR 60 MONTHS WITH $0 DOWN

CANADA'S BEST LEASE RATE

2014
ELANTRA L

5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

HWY: 5.3L/100 KM
CITY: 7.6L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

OR 0%* PURCHASE FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS ON SELECT MODELS

HWY: 7.3L/100 KM
CITY: 10.2L/100 KM▼

Limited model shown♦

2014
SANTA FE SPORT

5 YEAR†† WARRANTY

0%* FINANCING FOR 60 MONTHS

5 YEAR WARRANTY

5-year/100,000 km Comprehensive Limited Warranty††
5-year/100,000 km Powertrain Warranty
5-year/100,000 km Emission Warranty

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HyundaiCanada.com

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trademarks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp. †Leasing offers available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2014 Accent 4-Door L 6-Speed Manual/ 2014 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual with an annual lease rate of 0%. Bi-weekly lease payment of $75/$85 for a 60 month walk-away lease. Down Payment of $0 and first monthly payment required. Total lease obligation is $9,750/$11,050. Lease offers include $600/$1,050 in Price Adjustments, Delivery and Destination of $1,550/$1,550, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Lease offers exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Lease a new 2014 Accent 4-Door L 6-Speed Manual / 2014 Elantra L 6-Speed Manual and you'll be entitled to a $600/$1,050 Price Adjustment. Price Adjustment applies before taxes. Offer cannot be combined or used in conjunction with any other available credits or promotion other than the Hyundai Financial Service's promotional lease offer. Offer is non-transferable and cannot be assigned. No vehicle trade-in required. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charge of $0.12/km on all models except Genesis Sedan and Equus where additional charge is $0.25/km. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. *Finance offer available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services based on a new 2014 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD with an annual finance rate of 0% for 60 months. Finance offer includes Delivery and Destination of $1,760, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance offer excludes registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. Financing example: 2014 Santa Fe 2.4L FWD for $28,495 at 0% per annum equals $219 bi-weekly for 60 months for a total obligation of $28,495. $0 down payment required. Cash price is $28,495. Cost of Borrowing is $0. Example price includes Delivery and Destination of $1,760, fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Finance example excludes registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ♦Price of models shown: 2014 Accent 4 Door GLS/ 2014 Elantra Limited/ 2014 Santa Fe 2.0T Limited AWD are $20,385/$25,335/$40,795. Prices include Delivery and Destination charges of $1,550/$1,550/$1,760 fees, levies, and all applicable charges (excluding HST). Prices exclude registration, insurance, PPSA and license fees. ▼Fuel consumption for new 2014 Accent 4-Door L (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.5L/100KM); 2014 Elantra L Manual (HWY 5.3L/100KM; City 7.6.L/100KM); 2014 Santa Fe Sport 2.4L FWD (HWY 7.3L/100KM; City10.2.L/100KM), are based on Manufacturer Testing. Actual fuel efficiency may vary based on driving conditions and the addition of certain vehicle accessories. Fuel economy figures are used for comparison purposes only. ♦†* Offers available for a limited time, and subject to change or cancellation without notice. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. Visit www.hyundaicanada.com or see dealer for complete details. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions.